



ED DUFRESNE

WITHOUT A VISION MY PEOPLE PERISH

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INTRODUCTION

Where there's no vision the people perish. When Christians don't set a goal in their lives, when they don't have a vision before them, they'll perish. They'll get lukewarm and lazy; they'll float around, not knowing what they're supposed to do.

As you read this book, I want you to make a decision of what you are to be involved with and where you belong, and hook up to it. When you do, you'll have success in your life. You'll be singleminded (James 1:5—8).

All you have to do is to ask God; He'll tell you what He wants you to do and where He wants you to be.

Many people ask God to speak to them. And He does. And down the road they go off on something else; they don't do what God has told them to do. If He's told you to do something for a year, you take that year and do what He's told you to do. Nothing less.

You have to set a goal in your life. I have found that if I get disappointed or depressed, it's because I've gotten away from my goal. My vision isn't before me, what God told me to do.

CHAPTER ONE

THE HEAVENLY VISION

Habakkuk 2:2 & 3: And the Lord answered me and said, "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry."

God can give you a vision in many ways. He may speak to your heart, give you an open vision, give you a vision in your spirit, or show it to you in the Word of God and witness in your heart that that's your job, the one you're supposed to do.

Five or six years ago, as I was traveling through the Mojave Desert, the Glory of God moved in on me, and I started to weep. God gave me a vision. My oldest daughter was with me and wrote everything down as I told it to her, as God showed it to me.

Part of what I saw was a large, round building, a training center, with thousands of people coming in to hear the Uncompromised Word of God. I saw them coming out, full of the Word, getting into cars, busses, planes, and every available vehicle to go into the world to preach the Gospel.

I saw myself on airplanes. I saw myself on the radio. I saw myself on the television. The vision is coming to pass! It will not tarry!

When God shows you something, it will come to pass. The proof that it's from God is that it's in line with the Word and comes to pass.

I started talking it, though, before it came to pass (Romans 4:17). I went to one body and shared it with them, but they didn't "catch" the vision. So God raised up Palos Verdes Faith Center, a place where the people could hook up to the vision and not let go.

There are parts of the vision that have not come to pass...yet. But they will!!! Such as the healing hospital, for patients that doctors have given up on, the ones that medicine can't help, the hopeless ones that are told to live out their last years, just waiting to die. These are the people who will come to the healing hospital. We'll administer the Word to them, and they'll be raised up!

I'M AN EXTREMIST!!! I'm extremely healed; I'm extremely blessed of God: We've got to make the quality decision to be extremists when it comes to the Word of God. We need to be balanced, yes, but WITH THE WORD!!! You can't balance faith with unbelief; that's being double-minded.

Jesus was an extremist. He was single-minded. He had the vision of what He was to do and He decided to do it and would not be persuaded or tempted away from it. And He had success. He's the example we should follow.

If it's from God, it will be a success. God is not a God of failure. He won't give you a vision that cannot come to pass. The vision He'll give you WILL come to pass. But you've got to lock in on that vision and set your sights on your goal and not be moved or swayed by the circumstances around you (2 Corinthians 5:7).

God has done, and is doing, great things through this ministry. But I've had to hold on to the vision. When discouragement tries to come on me,

I go back to the vision, I remember the vision. I always look towards the goal, not at my current position.

CHAPTER TWO

THE PEOPLE

In every instance in the Old Testament where God has called a man to do a job for Him or given him a vision of something, He's given him a people to accomplish that goal.

Proverbs 29:18: *Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.*

You'll perish without a goal in your life. People in the world, not even born-again, set goals and nothing seems to be impossible for them. They'll not take 'no' for an answer. They'll push through to their goal.

Many Christians set a goal to help a ministry, saying, "Bless God, I'm going to get behind that Ed Dufresne." Then the pressure comes; I guarantee you it will. The pressure comes to doubt or gossip or whatever. And the Christians faint and decide to go somewhere else or do something easier.

Jesus never said it would be easy, but He said you'd have victory; and the only way you will is by setting a goal in your life.

People fail in their faith because they have no hope, they have no goal. SET A GOAL!!! Set it high enough so that you have to reach for it, but not so high as to seem impossible to you. SEE THE END RESULTS!!!

When you reach that goal, set another, higher up, and meet that one, and so on. WATCH YOURSELF ACCOMPLISH IT!!!

If the devil can get you from looking towards your goal, and get you going one way or another, you're not doing anything, you're floating.

God has always sent a people to work with His men to fulfill the vision.

Exodus 17:12: *But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.*

Together, they had victory. Here's a Man of God carrying out what God told him to do. Everywhere in the Bible where God has called a man to do something, He's always spoken to a people to come and help him.

Some of you are going to see through this why you're not having success in your lives; God has shown this to me.

I've always had to get back to what God had told me to do before anything would work in my life.

God would tell me to do something and I'd want to do something else instead; I'd go off and do what I wanted to do, and each time I did I'd almost starve. Why? Because I turned away from the vision, from what He wanted me to be doing.

When I was first born-again I was constantly helping other ministers. I helped them build new buildings. I helped them clean toilets. I held their coats while they prayed for others. God always put me with a man to help until He called me and gave me a vision, and then He said, "I'll give YOU men to help YOU."

If you're called to the ministry, you're going to need help. You can't do it all yourself; that isn't God's plan. God's plan is for a group of people to get together with a man who has a vision and hold up his hands and walk with him.

Judges 20:11: *So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city, knit together as one man.*

You get a body of believers knitted together, coming together, sharing the same vision, and you'll get the job done. You'll take over a city.

I've made up my mind that no devil, no demon, no man, no woman, NOBODY will run me off from the calling that God has called me to, and the heavenly vision that He has given me.

I won't put up with talkers, grippers, or backbiters any longer. And if people don't like it, they are welcome to leave. Let them go some place else.

I've been given a job to do, and I am going to do it!

I've made up my mind to do what God has told me to do, and I'm going to do it. But it won't just be me; I've got a body of believers behind me and working with me. They've caught the same vision. We're working toward the goal, and we'll make it, together.

2 Kings 2:9 & 15:

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha,

Ask what I shall do for thee before I be taken away from thee.

And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha.

The anointing of God can come by association. It can come when you get around a man that God has called to do a certain job. As you help him and hold him up, that anointing can come on you. Then, God may call you into a similar type of ministry. He's equipping you for that Office. He'll promote you as you are faithful to what He tells you to do. At the proper time, He'll tell you to break forth and move into the next phase of your ministry.

CHAPTER THREE

LABORERS TOGETHER

You can't do the job that God has called me to do better than me, and I can't do yours better than you. God has called ME to do something and He's called YOU to do something; I've got to do MY job, and you have got to do YOURS. But, as we each do what He's called us to do, and work together and knit together, we'll take over this country, then the world. I can only do what God told me to do, and that's what I'm going to do; I'm going to work toward that heavenly vision He gave me.

1 Corinthians 3:9: *For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry, God's building.*

We are co-laborers together, we are to work together.

2 Corinthians 6:1: *We then, as workers together with Him....*

1 Corinthians 1:10: *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement.*

If you have a church that's not saying the same thing, you'll have division. If the body doesn't share the same vision, they need to get it or go somewhere with those of like belief; there must be unity. There can be many ministries working together in the same church, but they all have to have the same vision and be called to work together there.

You've got to be saying the same thing. A whole band of people got saying the same thing and almost built a tower to heaven. God had to intercede and change their words, because there was no redemption for them. They would have done it, otherwise, because they were all saying the same thing.

Genesis 11:1, 4, & 6: *And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.... And they said, "Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach into heaven...." And the Lord said, "Behold, the people is one, and they have one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do."*

They had a goal. As we all get saying the same thing and set a goal, nothing will be restrained from US.

If two shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it'll be done (Matthew 18:19). You're in agreement, you're harmonizing.

It's important to get behind a man and believe in that same vision and the work he's doing.

You need to get a vision or a goal before you and then work toward it. People perish without a vision. People perish from a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6).

CHAPTER FOUR

DO WHAT GOD TELLS YOU

I've had young ministers come to me and share their vision with me. They've told me what God has told them to do. I've told them that I'm behind them and in agreement with them, but then a few months later I see them and they tell me they're not so sure it was God after all.

God's not playing games. It was God, all right; they've just gotten away from the vision. God told them to do something and they've done something else instead. They're wasting time. God doesn't fail; their ministry is not successful because they're not doing what God told them to do in the first place.

YOU'VE GOT TO DO WHAT GOD TELLS YOU TO DO. It takes discipline; it takes singlemindedness.

WE'VE ALL GOT TO GET SAYING THE SAME THING. And then nothing will be impossible to us.

It's that way with my own staff: we all have to be saying the same thing. If the people on my staff don't share my vision, they're working in the wrong place. We have to be united to succeed.

God has called me to do what I'm doing. There's a work for YOU to do, too. Maybe He's called you to an Office in the church; maybe not. Maybe He's called you to get behind a man with a vision and work with him and support him. Well, the same rewards he gets will come to you, too (Matthew 10:41).

You don't have to be the one "in the spotlight" to be doing what God wants you to do, to be fulfilling your calling. Many people want the fame and acclaim, but they don't want to have to do any work. If they'll humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, He'll exalt them (1 Peter 5:6).

I made up my mind that I'd do what God asked me to, even holding a Man of God's coat or shining his shoes. I determined to be faithful. I did what God said to do, and He exalted me. He exalted me into MY Office, not someone else's.

I've made mistakes, sure, but I've learned through experience that when I got back to the heavenly vision of what God spoke to me to do, things started being blessed. I get into trouble as soon as I start wanting to get ahead of God and look away from what He's set before me.

I've tried to walk away from what God told me to do. He told me to Pastor a church, Palos Verdes Faith Center. I told Him, "Oh, anybody can do that; ANYONE can take that church over; you certainly don't need ME." He said, "You're wrong;

I called YOU to be the pastor there. Until your work's done and I pull you out and put another person in there, you're not going anywhere. And, if you do, you'll miss me."

Isaiah 1:19: If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.

This is why Christians are failing and not blessed. If God has told you to get behind a man of God and get involved in his ministry and hold him up, forgetting about the man's faults and shortcomings, and you go off and do something else, don't be surprised if your bills aren't being paid.

Well, I like my bills to be paid, don't you? I want to be blessed of God; I don't want to miss Him. You'll find out after a while that if you be willing and obedient you'll eat the good of the land, and you'll get willing, FAST. You'll have no success until you do.

We're not supposed to be 'lone rangers' or 'hot rods' trying to show each other up. We need one another. In the counsel of many there is safety (Proverbs 11:14).

There are men I counsel with concerning business and different matters, but once I find out what God wants me to do, I make up my mind to do it. I set it before me as a goal and I work towards it.

If God tells me to do something, I'm going to do it, whether people are behind me or not; I'm going to do what God tells me to do; I'm going to be obedient, and I'm going to be willing.

There are a lot of Charismatic believers today that can be classified as "floaters." They go from church to church prophesying, dancing in the Spirit, getting "Holy Ghost goosebumps," having a good old time. But they don't want to settle down, they don't want to work, they don't want to make a commitment. They're of no service or value to the body; they don't help; they aren't willing; they're not obedient; they don't catch the vision. They just float from church to church getting blessed, never being a blessing to anyone else. Take, take, take, never give; just thinking about themselves. And waiting for God to call them into a big ministry.

This needs to be said. You need to get behind men of God and hold them up. Then, watch God exalt you. The only way the Body of Christ is going to bring Jesus back is to be obedient and willing.

CHAPTER FIVE

SEE IT THROUGH

John 4:34: Jesus saith unto them,

"My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work."

I'm going to finish the work God told me to do. I'm going to reach the goal. I'm not going to be ashamed.

When you make the decision to do what God wants you to do, and keep to it, you'll see results; you'll reach your goal. DO WhAt HE SAYS. If He says to get involved, get involved. If He says to help financially, give money. Don't be too busy to do what He says. As we all work together, we can get the job done. WE ALL HAVE OUR PART TO DO (1 Corinthians 12:14-18). We're in this together.

There are some of you reading this who God has told to do something, and, weeks later, you've gone out and done just the opposite. You let doubt get in and began to wonder if it was really God. And you wonder why He doesn't ask you to do something again.

You may say that God hasn't given you a vision; but maybe He's called you to work with a Man of God. Catch HIS vision; be faithful to that ministry. Be willing and obedient. You'll eat the good of the land!

John 17:4: "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

Do you want to glorify God? Finish the work He's given you to do. Many people don't even get into the first phase of their ministry, let alone finish it. Why? Because they listen to everyone but God. They look to everything but the vision, the goal; they don't do what God said to do.

2 Timothy 4:7: I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

We're in the middle of a spiritual war. We can't give up. We can't faint. We've got to hold fast. We've got to fight the good fight of FAITH (1 Timothy 6:12).

We're on the front lines; we can't have a bunch of incompetents tripping over one another, pretending to be soldiers; we've got to be organized.

Luke 10:2: Therefore He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest."

That's my prayer, that God send me laborers, grounded in the Word. And we'll all work together and get the job done.

Are you behind me? Are you behind a Man of God? ARE YOU BEHIND SOMEONE? Do you have the vision? You'll perish without it; but catch the Heavenly vision and set your goal and God will help you reach it.

Wait for it, because it will surely come; IT WILL NOT TARRY!

Ed Dufrcsne is a teacher u illi a dynamic message of salvation for the whole man: spirit, soul, and body. He leaches Clod's Word without com promise and brings insight to faith in the Word that makes it alive and real.

In October of 11)77. Jesus appeared to lid in a vision and told him that he would have more success in his heeding ministry. Under the direction of the Holt/ Spirit. Ed is currently traveling throughout the nation and around the world as an evangelist.

lie is taking the Word of Clod to the uttermost parts of the earth, turning mam/ people from darkness to light — from the power of Satan to Clod — and fulfilling the heavenly vision Clod gave him.

Ed is a native of Southern California. but is presently residing in Tulsa. Oklahoma.